



CALPEEK

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P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (213) 659-0205
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

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CAMPAIGN 1990: IT'S TRUE. DOLPHIN GROUP NO LONGER INVOLVED IN PROP. 118 EFFORT..

As reported in the last issue of CALPEEK, sources were correct in stating that Prop. 118, the Gary Flynn Reapportionment initiative, was hurting for bucks. This past week the Dolphin Group of West L.A., the campaign management firm handling Prop. 118, resigned the account. Reason: NO MONEY. So now the question is whether the big fundraiser featuring Pres. George Bush on May 21 will be in time to really help Prop. 118. Demos are not crying...

CAMPAIGN 1990: WILSON SLAMS FEINSTEIN ON ROSE BIRD. SO WHY IS DIFI ALL SMILES????

Ask most any GOP consultant for a candid opinion on who is the toughest Democrat for U.S. Sen. Pete Wilson(R) to beat in the November general election and 8 out of 10 will say it is Dianne Feinstein, the former mayor of San Francisco. And the Wilson campaign knows this to be true, which is why some sources are confused about the senator's tactics. By bashing DiFi at a CA Peace Officers Assn.(CPOA) convention in Orange County last week, some think Wilson is aiding DiFi's current frontrunner status in the Demo primary. That's why DiFi is all smiles, despite the barbs from Wilson, which conservative political columnist Robert Novak called "material from the Lee Atwater School of Research."...

...And don't think that Wilson's attack on DiFi was welcomed by the other major Demo contender, AG John Van de Kamp. VdK's campaign is desperately trying to SPIN things the other way, saying it is DiFi, not VdK, who would be raw meat for Wilson in November. The problem is that while insiders may buy Van de Kamp's cookies, they won't buy that line...

...So why is Wilson doing his Rose Bird tap

dance on DiFi's head? One theory suggests that if Feinstein is a NARROW victor in the primary over VdK, Wilson may have an advantage come November. On the other hand, if Feinstein wins BIG, say by a margin of 8 to 10 points or more, Wilson could find himself back in Washington D.C. instead of Sacramento. In other words, the bigger her win, the tougher it is for Wilson...

...But will DiFi continue to hold her lead? VdK is back on TV until the end of the campaign with a whole new batch of TV ads, trying to close the POLLING GAP with DiFi. In the recent L.A. Times poll, DiFi has a 37% to 24% lead over VdK, with 38% undecided. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 1990: BD. OF EQUALIZATION MAY BE LOW PROFILE, BUT THE JOB IS VERY CRITICAL. There's no doubt that members of the State Bd. of Equalization are collectively a very powerful group of elected officials. They control TAXING POLICY. Yet every election cycle they are almost INVISIBLE and IGNORED when it comes to getting attention from the news media. 1990 is no different, except this year there could be a big turnover in BOE membership...

...Why? Because 1st Dist. member William Bennett, Mr. Integrity himself, is under an ethics cloud for allegedly being reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses he never incurred. Then there is the open board seat in Dist. 2, which runs from south S.F. down to L.A. And finally, in L.A.'s Dist. 4, member Paul Carpenter is under indictment in the FBI sting...

...In District 1, Demos Joseph F. Micallef of Elk Grove and Tom Nakagawa, a sr. valuation analyst from Sacto, are challenging Bennett in the primary. The question is

{Continued Next Page}

whether either of these candidates have the connections to oust Bennett. No one seems to have any answers. There are 4 GOPers battling in the primary...

...In District 2, Demo Brad Sherman is now perhaps a slight favorite to upset former Assemblyman Lou Papen for the open seat of Conway Collis. Attorney Edward Tabash, a Demo political activist, just withdrew from the race and is now backing Sherman, who already is the officially endorsed candidate of the Calif. Demo Party. A more important endorsement has come Sherman's way. Both U.S. Reps. Henry Waxman and Howard Berman are backing Sherman's candidacy. On the GOP side, former Assemblyman Bill Duplissee of San Carlos is a favorite to beat perennial GOP candidate Claude Parrish of Beverly Hills...

...In Dist. 4, Carpenter has 5 Demo challengers in this primary, but they are all strapped for bucks. So how are they going to let the voters know about Carpenter's problems? Free media and editorials will help, but the KEY answer may rest with the Demo SLATE MAKERS. To place the indicted Carpenter on a slate might be political suicide for both the slate maker as well as for other Demos. So here's the key question: will the slate makers turn KINGMAKERS and pick one of Carpenter's rivals - or will the slate makers leave the spot open, in which case, Carpenter might WIN renomination? Are there any favorites among the 5 challengers? Perhaps Torrance Councilman Tim Mock, who is an attorney...

...District 3 in San Diego is about the only race where there are no surprises. Here incumbent member Ernest Dronenburg Jr. is a slam dunk to win the GOP primary and reelection over Demo Floyd Morrow, a perennial candidate in San Diego. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 1990: SAN JOSE MAYOR'S CONTEST.

With 3 weeks to go before the June 5 election to replace outgoing San Jose Mayor Tom McEnery, most observers think this primary featuring three solid contenders will boil down to a contest to see who faces San Jose Councilwoman Susan Hammer in the November runoff election. Will it be Hammer's council colleague, Shirley Lewis, or ex East Side Schools Supt. Frank Fiscalini? Most insiders believe Hammer is a slam dunk to

finish first in the primary. She's already on TV and has a huge list of endorsements. A Hammer vs. Fiscalini contest would be the most interesting because these two present the biggest contrast, whereas Hammer and Lewis are very close on most issues...

FEDERALIST SOCIETY SETS SERIES IN SACTO.

The Federalist Society of Sacramento will conduct a 4-part series titled "Politics, Ethics and the Law," on May 15, 17, 22 and 24 in Sacramento. The first discussion features U.S. Atty. David Levi, who was just nominated to be a federal judge. For specific times and locations, contact Charles H. Bell Jr. (916)446-6752...

CAMPAIGN 1990: 56 COUNTY DAs FACE VOTERS.

Editor's note: 56 of the State's 58 County District Attorneys are up for reelection this year. Sometimes these contests can get more than a little nasty, as CALPEEK readers will soon see. Here is the first in a two-parter on DA contests...

- SANTA CLARA - After 2 terms, DA Leo Himmelsbach decided not to seek reelection, which caught just about everyone offguard, except for Asst. DA George Kennedy, who is running as the "heir apparent." But Kennedy isn't home free. He has a challenger in Dep. DA Jerry Nadler. Under most circumstances Kennedy would be a slam dunk. But in an ON THE RECORD, TAPED INTERVIEW with the San Jose Mercury, Kennedy used obscene language to describe Nadler. The Mercury didn't use the expletives, but word got out about the Kennedy interview and the weekly Metro, in its Apr. 12-18 issue, used the salty language. So will CALPEEK, because several sources say this choice of words by Kennedy raises some serious questions about Kennedy's judgment and character. Kennedy called Nader a "jerk-fuck dickhead."...

...Will Kennedy's vocabulary come back to haunt him? Hard to say, because so far the campaign to replace Himmelsbach has been very low keyed. Kennedy's campaign is being run by consultant Joe Shumate, while Roger Lee & Carol Beddo are in charge of Nader's uphill effort...

- NEW DAs UNOPPOSED - There are four new DAs seeking election for the first time. Of the four, three are unopposed. They include Sacramento Co. DA Steve White, who

replaced John Dougherty; Charles O'Rourke of Yuba Co., who took over from Frederick Schroeder; and El Dorado Co.'s Walter Miller, who took over after the suicide of DA Ron Tepper in March of 1989...

- ORANGE COUNTY - The fourth new DA who faces voters is Michael Capizzi, who replaced the former dean of the DAs, Cecil Hicks, now a judge in Orange Co. But Capizzi has three challengers, all from the Orange Co. DA's office. They are James "Jim" Enright, chief deputy DA; Ed Freeman, assistant DA; and Tom Avdeef, a deputy DA. Capizzi is running a very strong race and some think he may avoid a runoff. Others aren't so sure. Enright would seem to be the candidate best able to force a runoff, but so far there's NO evidence of a campaign. Freeman and Avdeef are running much more aggressive efforts. Consultant Eileen Padberg is running Capizzi's campaign...

- YOLO - Ordinarily incumbent DA David Henderson would have little trouble winning a 2nd term. But last year, while attending a Calif. District Atty. Assn.(CDA) conference in Santa Barbara, he was busted for DUI. Ten days ago a Santa Barbara Co. jury found him guilty of misdemeanor DUI. Henderson says he'll appeal. The DA has one opponent, trial attorney Daniel Mitts, who was a last minute candidate. Odds are that Henderson will be reelected because there is no evidence of a Mitts campaign...

CAMPAIGN 1990: IS PROP. 111 IN TROUBLE???
Despite outward appearances, such as a very strong two week TV buy, there are signs that THE most important ballot measure facing voters this June 5, Prop. 111, may be in trouble. Polling data in the most recent L.A. Times survey shows 111 to be leading, 47% to 40%, with a large 13% undecided. But PRIVATE POLLING, some of it in the heart of tax revolt country, Orange County, shows the NO on Prop. 111 forces with 68% of the vote. And now the Orange Co. anti-tax forces have organized into a formal opposition committee. More than that, there are signs that the YES on 111 coalition may not be totally unified. A group of major businesses recently wrote an open letter to the Sierra Club, expressing alarm that the club has NOT followed up on its commitment to support the gas tax hike and Gann spending limit reform plan...

79th A.D. UPDATE: WHERE DOES ASSEMBLYMAN CHACON STAND ON THE QUESTION OF CHOICE???
In the past several weeks political consultants for besieged incumbent Assemblyman Peter Chacon(D-San Diego) have been trying to soften the lawmakers PRO-LIFE stance on abortion, as his primary campaign against challenger Celia Ballesteros heats up. But the tactics may not be working. As CALPEEK went to press, the CA Abortion Rights Action League(CARAL) was set to hold a news conference to REAFFIRM the group's endorsement of Ballesteros, a former San Diego councilwoman...

...The issue of choice has really dominated this primary. Chacon has been a hard-line PRO-LIFE Demo for more than 20 years. His stance on abortion really came to the front burner when he was quoted in the local newspaper as saying that San Diego Bishop Leo Maher was within his right to bar now State Sen. Lucy Killea(D) from Communion. As CALPEEK readers will recall, that action took place in the midst of a special election. Maher's action against PRO-CHOICE Killea made national headlines and undoubtedly helped Killea to win the special...

...In early April, several months after the Killea victory, Chacon apparently had a private chit-chat with the new State senator, where he attempted to mend some fences. On April 26, Chacon wrote a formal letter to Killea. Killea told the San Diego Union in a May 2 story, the letter had been written "more for (the media's) benefit than for mine."...

...Bottomline: Despite the additional help being poured in by Assembly Speaker Willie Brown to keep Chacon in office, some San Diego insiders see an UPSET in the making. Stay tuned...

13th A.D. UPDATE: LEE STILL HAS THE EDGE.
This Oakland area district is so heavily Democratic that Republicans Dennis Fassett and Barbara Thomas are strickly in the running to see who will end up on the GOP State Central Committee. There are 3 Demos in this primary, but in reality, it's a two way contest between Oakland Councilwoman Aleta Cannon and former congressional AA Barbara Lee...

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...Up until very recently, this contest had been a run away for Lee, who has captured almost every major endorsement around, leaving Cannon in the dust. Lee's newest supporters include U.S. Rep. Barbara Boxer (D-S.F.) and Alameda Co. Sup. Don Perata...

...But a few weeks ago Cannon finally woke up and began to campaign. She does have 9 years on the council, meaning she has name ID in the 13th. But COG signs and some mail does NOT make a campaign, whereas Lee has been campaigning for more than a year. Bottomline: frontrunner status remains with Lee...

72nd A.D. UPDATE: PRINGLE WAITS AS DEMOS SLASH EACH OTHER IN ORANGE COUNTY WARFARE. GOP freshman Assemblyman Curt Pringle of Garden Grove may be a TOP target of Demo Assembly Speaker Willie Brown and national and local PRO-CHOICE groups, but because of a BLOODY BATTLE between Demos in Orange County, odds are he'll be back in Sacto next year unless Demos stop fighting...

...The intra-party warfare which has split Orange County Demos centers on whom the party should nominate: Jerry Yudelson, who ran unsuccessfully against U.S. Rep. Bob Dornan in 1988; or Tom Umberg, an ex asst. U.S. Atty...

...Most source say the warfare started when Yudelson began to organize for the primary. He angered many Demos by taking some verbal shots at Speaker Willie Brown. Then during the fall of 1989, he opposed Prop. M, the county ballot measure to hike the sales tax to relieve TRAFFIC CONGESTION...

...These two items, plus the opinion that he might be "too liberal" for the 72nd district, led a group of "establishment" Demos to recruit Umberg. To make the case that Umberg had a better shot, the "king-makers" did a survey. The survey found Pringle with high name ID (80.1%), as well as high negatives. The survey also disclosed that 44.5% of voters in the 72nd A.D. were UNAWARE of the now infamous "polling guard incident," when Pringle backers posted uniformed security guards at various poll locations in the 72nd A.D. in the November 1988 general election. In terms of Umberg vs. Yudelson, the survey data is out of date, but did show Umberg doing better against Pringle than Yudelson...

...Umberg's list of endorsements is impressive. It includes 5 former Orange County Demo Party chairmen; 16 Demo Assembly Caucus members; numerous local officials; and organizational endorsements from SEIU, UAW and PORAC. Bob Stiens is the daily mgr...

...Yudelson's campaign is more grass roots oriented and only boosts one top Orange Co. Demo - the current party chair, Mike Bal-mages. However, Yudelson does have a number of locally elected Demos who have endorsed him. Yudelson's campaign is being run San Diego consultant Larry Remer...

...Bottomline: Demo sources in Sacto think Umberg has the edge, but CALPEEK sources in Orange County aren't so sure. As of mid May, many rate the primary a TOSS-UP...

NEW POLL IN L.A. CO. SUPERVISOR CAMPAIGN.

In the contest to replace veteran L.A. Co. Sup. Pete Schabarum, a poll with a sample of 399 registered voters shows that 69% of those questioned have not decided whom to vote for just yet. But of those who did express a preference, 12% favored former Congressman Jim Lloyd of West Covina. 9% are for Schabarum's former sr. deputy, Sarah Flores; 5% are for L.A. Sup. Court Judge Gregory O'Brien; 3% are for Pomona Councilwoman Nell Soto; and 2% are for Monrovia Mayor Robert Bartlett. The survey was completed by Claremont Public Affairs Corp. for the Lloyd campaign...

CALPEEK's ROSENGARTEN AT W.I.P.A. LUNCHEON.

CALPEEK co-publisher Dick Rosengarten will be the guest speaker at the May 24 luncheon meeting of Women In Public Affairs. 11:30 a.m. networking, 12 noon lunch at the Northrop's Corporate HQ, 1840 Century Park East, in L.A. For info and RSVPs, contact Linda Braunschweiger at Union Bank in L.A. (213) 236-6791...

MALIBU CITYHOOD CANDIDATES' FORUM JUNE 2.

The Santa Monica/Malibu League of Women Voters, with a grant from the Malibu Bay Co., will sponsor a candidates' forum from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., June 2, at the Malibu Colony Plaza. For info contact Jacqui Schneider at (213) 345-2952...